
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 459 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, ALLOWAY, DINNIMAN, WARD, MENSCH,
FARNESE, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, ARGALL, VULAKOVICH, BOSCOLA,
TEPLITZ, YUDICHAK AND KILLION, OCTOBER 18, 2016

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 18, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 animal abuse prevention task force to conduct a thorough and
3 comprehensive analysis of laws for the prevention of animal
4 cruelty and abuse and report to the Senate its findings and
5 recommendations.

6 WHEREAS, According to the Humane Society of the United
7 States, intentional cruelty to animals is strongly correlated
8 with other crimes, including violence against people; and

9 WHEREAS, On average, 1,920 cases of animal abuse and cruelty
10 are reported each year; and

11 WHEREAS, The Senate recognizes the value of studying this
12 vital issue; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
14 Commission to establish an animal abuse prevention task force of
15 20 members; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the President pro tempore of the Senate
17 appoint two members of the animal abuse prevention task force
18 and the Minority Leader of the Senate appoint two members of the
19 animal abuse prevention task force; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the membership of the animal abuse prevention
2 task force be balanced so that it encompasses a wide range of
3 backgrounds and viewpoints; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the animal abuse prevention task force contain
5 at least one of the following individuals:

6 (1) a representative from the Governor's Policy Office
7 or designee;

8 (2) a representative from the Department of Agriculture
9 or designee;

10 (3) a dog warden;

11 (4) an attorney;

12 (5) a district attorney;

13 (6) a representative from a law enforcement agency;

14 (7) a veterinarian;

15 (8) a representative from The Humane League;

16 (9) a representative from an animal rescue organization;

17 and

18 (10) an owner of a large kennel;

19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
21 with the animal abuse prevention task force, conduct a thorough
22 and comprehensive analysis of laws for the prevention of animal
23 cruelty and abuse in this Commonwealth; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
25 with the animal abuse prevention task force, identify the best
26 preventive practices and develop recommendations; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the final report include recommendations to
29 implement necessary changes in State statutes, practices,
30 policies and procedures relating to animal cruelty and abuse;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
3 to the Senate its findings and recommendations no later than 18
4 months from the adoption of this resolution.